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guard of ski adepts to the lofty starting points of famous downhill runs, with the 5280-ft. high Bella Lui likely to attract the greatest number of visitors. The first of some thirty sports competitions is scheduled for December 31st. It is the traditional Robinson Cup Ski Race. The "Aces" will muster their forces on January 6th for a Giant Slalom. Extremely popular affairs with contestants and spectators as well are Crans-sur-Sierre's traditional children's ski competitions. Young champions under 15 will compete in various fields on February 15th and 18th and again on March 11th. There will be expertly conducted ski tours into the high Alpine wonderland of the Wildstrubel, from March 12th to 18th. Ice-hockey games at night are among the after-dark highlights, and all through the winter season, Crans-sur-Sierre with its Kursaal-Casino, its two cinemas and its many social functions such as masquerade and gala balls, will be a "place in the sun" also for fun-seekers.

New Swiss Gold Coins

By virtue of a decision passed by the Swiss Government, the former Swiss gold coins of the value of ten and of twenty francs will be replaced progressively by the issue of two new coins, of the value of twenty five and of fifty francs. The first coins have just come out from the presses of the Federal Mint. Made of an alloy of 900 thousandths of pure gold and of copper, these coins are the same on the obverse side, except for the difference in the numeral. On the reverse side of the 25 francs coin there is to be found a figure of William Tell, inspired by the picture of the Swiss artist Ferdinand Hodler. The reverse side of the 50 francs coin represents the taking of the oath by the three Swiss at Grutli. Working at full production, the workshops at the Federal Mint are capable of an output of 1.8 million of these coins per day.

Swiss Expedition to the Himalayas

Zurich, Switzerland.—A new expedition of alpinists and research men headed by the Berne lawyer Albert Eggler, and patronised by the Swiss Foundation for Alpine Research, will venture into the Himalayas this coming spring. The Government of Nepal has granted the Swiss Expedition the permission to explore the Khumbu- and Imjya-Khola glaciers and the surrounding summits and ridges. The Swiss Foundation for Alpine Research already organised two expeditions to the Himalayas in 1952. The third one aims at collecting further scientific data, especially in the fields of petrography, glacier morphology and physiology. The members of this expedition will also attempt to climb the highest mountain in the world, Mount Everest, as well as the summits of the Lhotse (26,353 ft.), the Nupse (24,264 ft.), and the Pumori (21,724 ft.).

Swiss Emigration and Immigration

One hundred and seventy-nine persons emigrated from Switzerland during the month of October, as compared with two hundred and twenty-seven during the corresponding month last year. For the first ten months of this year, the excess of emigration over immigration was less than five hundred persons. These figures confirm the progressive diminution which is taking place in regard to Swiss emigration, during the course of these last years.

Swiss Tourism in 1954

It has been estimated that 875 million francs have been spent in Switzerland by the visitors from abroad, during the twelve months of 1954. The Swiss who have sojourned abroad during the same period of time have spent 365 million francs. Thus, the net proceeds derived by Switzerland from her tourist traffic amount to more than five hundred million francs. Tourism constitutes an important element in Switzerland's balance of payments, as it contributes towards compensating the deficit in her trade balance which is traditionally unfavourable.

NOTICE

There are still a number of subscriptions for the past financial year outstanding. The Committee ask the members concerned to make good this oversight so that the books for presentation at the General Assembly in June show the full co-operation of all members in this respect. The subscription outstanding of 22/6d. covers the period of 18 months ending March 31st, 1956.

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